

Citizens Advisory Committee for Marietta Parks (CACMP)
Minutes of the Meeting on March 4, 2010
Fire Station #1, Training Room

A public meeting of CACMP was called to order promptly at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jim King. All members were present except Heath Garrett, Alan Watkins, Larry Ceminsky and Ford Bohannon.

The proposed minutes of the February 18, 2010, CACMP meeting were adopted unanimously after a motion by Kim Gresh and a second by Michael Helenek.

Written reports have been filed by the Recreation Center Committee, the Park Improvement & Rehab Committee and the New Potential Parks/Real Estate Acquisition Committees and are available on-line.

Jim Morris spoke of the Recreation Center Committee's recent visit to Smyrna Community Center and that Committee recommended that Elizabeth Porter's property be expanded. The recommendation was discussed but never voted on. There was general agreement that a new recreation center should be built on that site but discussion included suggestions of sites on Franklin Road and Custer Park. There was general agreement that Franklin Road is not a reasonable site for the city's recreation center for a variety of reasons but primarily because it is not centrally located and the property on Franklin Road will not be buildable for many months. Johnny Sinclair announced that he believes the City Council does not support the establishment of a recreation center on Franklin Road in the near future. The existing Elizabeth Porter location has strong appeal because of its potential visibility and access from North Marietta Parkway, a major access road to and from Marietta. The Committee plans to visit recreation centers in Roswell and Gwinnett County in the near future and will ultimately have recommendations for a recreation center and community center on one or more sites.

Kim Gresh reported on the Park Improvement and Rehabilitation Committee's recommendations. A motion was made by Melody Unger and seconded by Mitch Hunter that their list of projects be approved by the CACMP and sent to the City Council. The motion passed unanimously. The list of improvements includes:

1. Brown Park: Install fencing and irrigation system.
2. Grambling Street Park: Add play equipment.
3. Hill Park: Install chess tables.
4. Laurel Park: Install trail lighting and begin process for bids for pond and drainage improvements.
5. Lewis Park: Add drinking fountains and shade structure.
6. Victory Park: Install outdoor exercise equipment.
7. West Dixie Park: Install some type of removable play equipment.
8. Wildwood Park: Lighting for parking lot (using recycled light fixtures)
9. Woods Park: Landscaping.

Bill Hageman reported on the New Potential Parks/Real Estate Acquisition Committees recommendation that the City Council contact the federal government and/or military to seek property that would allow us to connect Wildwood and Burruss Parks. Jim Morris made a motion to send that recommendation to the City Council, Kim Gresh seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Committee also recommended that City Council advertize our interest in hearing any nominations from the public for property to be acquired by gift or by purchase for future parks land. The motion was made by Randy Weiner and seconded by Bill Hageman and passed unanimously. The Committee will develop a set of criteria to evaluate the relative merits of various properties.

Micheal Helenek reported on the Trail and Connectivity/Historic Trails and Signage Committees and they are studying what the City has tried to do with the existing trail plan. The Committee is also studying maps to see what kind of connectivity they might develop for other historic and park related sites. Michael made a motion that the City Council make it a priority to complete the existing trail plan while the Committee works on connectivity. The motion was seconded by Kim Gresh and passed unanimously.

CACMP members discussed having received feedback from community members that there are enough pocket parks and that the community derives more benefit from larger, more traditional parks. Cindy Suto made a motion to inform City Council of that recommendation. Michelle Cooper Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Deborah Huwaldt recommended development of a formal matrix to weight decision making but nobody volunteered to develop one. She also recommended using space that may be vacant in the Preston Chase Apartment complex as community meeting space.

CACMP members discussed the need for a City contractor to operate as a manager for some of these new projects since Parks and Recreation staff are already fully involved and these new projects will demand much time over and above the normal operations of the department. Such a person should have skills in design as related to parks and recreation, be able to write specifications for bids, consult with experts, etc. A motion was made by Michelle Cooper Kelly and seconded by Michael Helenek that City Council hire such an contractor.

The next meeting of CACMP will be at 7:00 pm., March 18, 2010, at the same location.

Respectfully submitted, this 4th day of March, 2010

Jim Morris, Secretary